

Worksession

Agenda Item #	8
Meeting Date	7 May 2007
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Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Annual Report and Budget Recommendations of the Safe Roadways Committee
Background	<p>The Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee was established by Ordinance in 2004. Its purpose is:</p> <p>A. To advise the City Council on transportation-related issues including pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic problems, and transit services; and</p> <p>B. To encourage Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving including walking, bicycling, and transit.</p> <p>Safe Roadways Committee representatives will provide the Council with an update on the activities of the Committee and present its recommendations for programming in FY08.</p>
Policy	<p>“(To) improve transit accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists by providing safe and inviting sidewalk connections, shelters, bike racks, and related amenities.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Takoma Park Master Plan (Adopted December 2000)</p>
Fiscal Impact	A total of \$10,000 for transit and pedestrian safety education and outreach programming is included in the City Manager’s proposed FY08 budget.
Attachments	Recommended Priorities for the City of Takoma Park
Recommendation	Listen to the committee presentation and discuss.
Special Consideration	None

Recommended Priorities for the City of Takoma Park FY 08 Budget

Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee

1. Multimodal Route Enhancements

Continue to advocate for comprehensive multi-modal improvements to Maryland State Highway routes.

Identified priority state routes include University Boulevard (MD 193), New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650), Piney Branch Road (MD 320), Philadelphia/Carroll/Ethan Allen (MD 410), Flower Avenue (MD 787). Suggested improvements on these roads should include where appropriate:

- Street beautification enhancements:
 - Tree-line sidewalks,
 - Landscaped medians,
 - Separate sidewalks from traffic with street trees and wide lawn buffers.
- Multi-modal enhancements:
 - On-road bikeways,
 - "Shared-use paths" (8-foot wide sidewalks) on both sides,
 - On-street parking during off-peak periods.
- Safety enhancements:
 - Install additional pedestrian crossings to enhance pedestrian/bike routes
 - Increase visibility of crosswalks using state-of-the-art methods (reflective materials, focused lighting, etc.)
 - Improve frequency of pavement maintenance to include striping, marking, etc.

2. Pedestrian Path Improvements

Maintain and upgrade heavily used pedestrian paths.

- Repair the Maple Avenue Bridge across Sligo Creek

3. Public Outreach Events or Programs

Increase transportation safety and alternative “green” modes education in the City.

- Implement “Safe Routes to Schools” policy, programming, and events
- Sponsor and organize public outreach events and/or programs with multicultural emphasis
- Participate in regional events such as Bike to Work Day, Car Free Day, etc.
- Use print and electronic media to disseminate information to city residents promoting safe walking, driving, and biking and the use of public transportation.

4. Improve Transit Accessibility

Improve accessibility, safety and comfort with regard to bus and Metrorail for pedestrians and bicyclists.

- For bus:
 - Create standards and guidance for amenities to be located at Ride-on and Metrobus stops (such as site selection, seating, shelter types, trash receptacles, pedestrian crossings, bike parking and provision of bus schedule and route information). Implement these standards and guidance through future bus stop improvement and maintenance contracts.
 - Determine accessibility and safety for child pedestrians using school bus stops.
 - Continue to increase availability of bus transit information.
- For Metro:
 - Improve access to, and facilities for, bicyclists at Metro stations.
 - Advocate for continued improvements to Metro Bike-on-Rail services.

5. Enhance Bike Facilities

- Implement the Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan (2005) and Pedestrian Routes and Bikeways Supplement to the East Silver Spring and Takoma Park Master Plans (September 2001).
- Set bicycle parking standards to include retrofit of existing facilities.
- Implement standards prioritizing high activity areas.
- Examine feasibility, costs, and benefits of a bicycle-sharing program in Takoma Park.
- Continue to install additional bicycle facilities throughout the City.

6. Create a Sidewalk Policy

- Set standards for sidewalk location, width, and replacement.
- Set criteria for replacing sidewalks, and installing new sidewalks
- Sponsor consultant-led community workshops to develop a City sidewalk ordinance.

NOTE: NUMBERS DO NOT INDICATE PRIORITY